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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

IMB in final stage of revitalization plans

DALLAS (BP) — On their knees in prayer surrounding 14 new overseas regional leaders, trustees of the International Mission Board (IMB) signaled unanimous support for the final stage of an overseas operations revitalization begun earlier this year.

Following their Sept. 4-5 meeting in Dallas, International Mission Board (IMB) trustees participated in a Sunday evening service at the venerable First Church in which 58 new missionaries were appointed for overseas service.

The board's reorganization expands the number of overseas administrative units from 10 to 14, covering every population group outside North America.

Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president for overseas operations, described the regional leaders' presentation to trustees as "historic." He said it marked the beginning of a major new advance in Southern Baptist international missions.

The presentation reflected the agency's shift from focusing on 194 countries to targeting 12,862 people groups in the world. "Countries" describes geopoliti-

cal entities; "people groups" describes clusters of people bound together by language, culture, and socioeconomic ties. The board's shift in focus from countries to people groups helps it more effectively reach previously unevangelized people groups.

IMB President Jerry Rankin said he envisions a day when Southern Baptists are reaching



INQUIRING MINDS — A Sept. 7 appointment service for 58 new International Mission Board missionaries offered opportunities to learn about God's work around the world. From left, Christy MacNelly, Megan Copeland, Linsey Copeland, Josey Copeland — even baby Stephen — from Birchman Church in Fort Worth, explore a display on Southern Baptist missions in the Philippines. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

every people group overseas, bolstered by the work of 15,000 full-time missionaries — more than three times the current 4,200 workers.

He challenged current paradigms that focus most Southern Baptist ministry and outreach effort in this country.

"Is it consistent with God's eternal purpose for only 4,200 missionaries to proclaim the message of salvation to 95% of the world's population, while more than 100,000 pastors, church staff, and denominational workers minister among the 5% at home, and most of 15.6 million Southern Baptists never

consider missions as an option?" Rankin asked.

"We have initiated significant structural changes in our overseas organization and leadership in order to be prepared for future growth," he said. "Resignations and attrition remain stable at just under 4%, as they have for the past 20 years. Retirements have peaked, and we will see a 30% decline from the average of the last 10 years. An unprecedented number of candidates are in the appointment process."

God has opened doors worldwide, and Southern Baptists would be remiss if they "fail to have a thousand missionaries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, a thousand missionaries in China and India, and a thousand missionaries assigned to other unreached people groups in the next five years without diminishing our deployment to other areas of the world," Rankin said.

He said the IMB is preparing for such growth, believing it will come.

Rankin said he is calling this new level of mobilization "Vision 2001."

"From 1954 to 1964, the number of missionaries under appointment with the FMB actually tripled in 10 years," he said. "I believe we can do it again in the next 10 years if we will take seriously the task of mobilization and are truly committed to being on mission with God."

Baptist Book Stores best sellers

HARDBACK

1. Purpose Driven Church, Rick Warren (Zondervan)
2. Just As I Am, Billy Graham (Zondervan)
3. The Weigh Down Diet, Gwen Shamblin (Doubleday)
4. David, Charles Swindoll (Word)
5. In the Grip of Grace, Max Lucado (Word)
6. Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby & Claude King (Broadman & Holman)
7. Joy for the Journey, Compiled (Nelson/Countryman)
8. Streams in the Desert, Charles Cowman (Zondervan)
9. God's Inspirational Promises, Max Lucado (Nelson/Countryman)
10. Reason for My Hope, Charles Stanley (Nelson)

PAPERBACK

1. Living Somewhere Between Estrogen and Death, Barbara Johnson (Word)
2. What Happens When Women Pray, Evelyn Christenson (Chariot/Victor)
3. Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman (Moody)
4. 15 Minutes Alone With God, Emilie Barnes (Harvest)
5. Stories From the Heart, Various (Multnomah)
6. Five Love Languages of Children, Gary Chapman (Moody)
7. 15 Minutes of Peace with God, Emilie Barnes (Harvest)
8. Financial Planning Workbook, Larry Burkett (Multnomah)
9. More Stories From the Heart, Various (Multnomah)
10. Right from Wrong, Josh McDowell (Word)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

MBC schedule released

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Looking back

10 years ago

"I'll have to preach new sermons now!" says Dolton Haggan, pastor of Pocahontas Church, after the church burned to the ground following a lightning strike the evening of September 10. Gone are his Bible, study lessons, and sermon notes. "The work of a lifetime," he says.

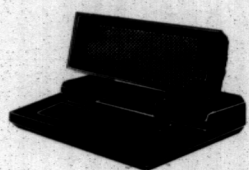
20 years ago

Young Nam Cho, top-ranked entertainer in Korea, sings a concert at First Church, Long Beach. Cho became a Christian two years ago and is attending college in Florida. First Church, Long Beach has a continuing ministry to Koreans. Bill Duncan is pastor.

50 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's executive committee authorizes a contract with the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, making effective the Widows Supplemental Plan for Mississippi Baptist pastors and board employees.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**
Editor

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Forward, or backward?

Just about everyone in Mississippi has by now heard about last week's "sleep over" controversy at Ole Miss. For out-of-state and international subscribers, here's a brief review:

The University of Mississippi administration allowed students on the Oxford campus to vote Sept. 2 on whether to permit members of the opposite sex to spend the night in gender-segregated upperclassmen residence halls on campus.

As a particularly sad commentary on the lessons our culture teaches young people, the students voted overwhelmingly to allow the sleep overs. What had heretofore been frowned upon as unacceptable conduct and prohibited at Mississippi's public universities was now on the way to obtaining an official seal of approval.

It took a stern fax message from the state College Board, which governs the state's public institutions of higher learning, to quash the new policy just hours before it was to go into effect. Seems the sleep over policy directly violates a College Board rule prohibiting coed dormitories.

University administrators were quick to withdraw the policy under the glare of the College Board, but their resort to the classic "The Bureaucracy Made Me Do It/Pass the Buck" defenses is disappointing.

Richard Mullendore, vice-chancellor for student life, told The Clarion-Ledger newspaper on Sept. 14 that he was "unaware" the visitation policy would "perhaps be in conflict" with College Board policy.

"I should have done a better job of communicating the proposal internal-ly..." he confessed.

Chancellor Robert Khayat in the same article acknowledged that the visitation policy was approved without his knowledge and although he knew students voted on the change Sept. 2, he was not asked to sign off on it.

Some news stories have quoted university sources as characterizing the sleep over campaign as a way to encourage students to live in the residence halls rather than opt for off-campus housing in the Oxford area.

While it is important that on-campus student facilities at state universities be utilized to the maximum, it is troubling that an invitation to immorality is seen as a way to increase interest in the residence halls.

Equally troubling is the student response to the new policy. "Everybody's 'doing it' anyway," was the oft-repeated refrain during news coverage of the policy's imminent enactment. It's doubtful that "Everybody's 'doing it' anyway," but certainly not with the official sanction of the university and by extension the State of Mississippi.

The salient observation from among all others, however, has to be the student who gushed, "Finally, we've moved forward into the 20th century!"

Well, no. We've actually moved backward to the first century, where people indulged in vulgarity and wickedness that can scarcely be matched anywhere in history.

"THE ANGEL MOVED THE STONE TO REVEAL AN EMPTY TOMB AND A RISEN CHRIST. EVER SINCE, MAN HAS BEEN TRYING TO ROLL THAT STONE BACK!"



The Apostle Paul was forced to devote large portions of his ministry to refuting the immorality of the era that had ensnared even some of the strongest early Christian followers (1 Cor. 5, 6: 12-20). As it was 2,000 years ago, so it is today.

What can a concerned parent do? Even more to the point, what can a self-respecting Christian student do?

Mississippi's three Baptist institutions of higher learning are looking better and better, aren't they?

Webster's Dictionary defines the word epidemic as, "affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time."

There is an epidemic quietly eating away at the future of Mississippi. That epidemic is called gambling and the future of Mississippi is its people — old and young.

The gambling industry has quickly and quietly woven itself into the very fabric of our society. The largest single effect gambling is having on the people of Mississippi is that gambling is being accepted more and more. Its quick progression, and thereby acceptance by government in this state, is mind boggling:

- ◆ Video bingo — early 1980s
- ◆ Casino gambling on cruise vessels in international waters off the Gulf Coast — mid 1980s
- ◆ Dockside gambling — late 1980s
- ◆ "Riverboat" casinos in counties bordering the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River with local elections — 1990
- ◆ Native American gaming laws allowing a land-based casino at the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Philadelphia, Mississippi — early 1990s
- ◆ Judge rules that off-track/pari-mutuel betting could be allowed in Miss. casinos — 1997
- ◆ Sports betting (although prohibited by law in this state) is available with a phone call at the casinos, based on what a Tunica casino patron told me two weeks ago.

I think it is fair to say gambling in Mississippi has more than become an epidemic in such a short period of time. We cannot grow numb to its existence in this

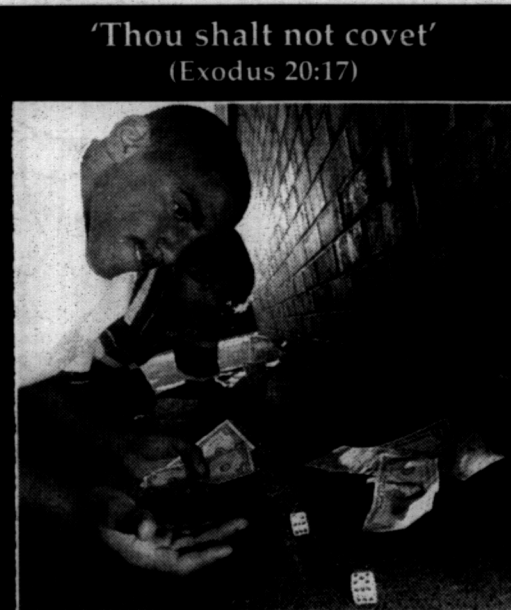
GUEST OPINION:



A dangerous epidemic

*By Jim Brown, member,
Trinity Church, Southaven*

state. As some would see it there are positive aspects of the industry's arrival in Mississippi, such as increased economic activity, big entertainment, and fine food. In other words, the "good life" can now be found and experienced through the casinos.



**Observe Anti-Gambling Sunday
September 21, 1997**

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

We cannot let this industry slowly blind us to the damage it is causing in our state and in our country. The broken homes, broken finances, increases in crime, and addictions have the ripple effect of increasing government services to handle these negatives, not to mention the toll it takes in devastating families and individuals.

An effective manner in which we can help curb the gambling industry's growth and acceptance of that growth is for all Christians to remember that gambling is wrong and contrary to Biblical principles.

Not speaking up and sharing your convictions is a silent way of endorsing and condoning the gambling industry. Eph. 6 talks of the full armor of God and encourages us to stand firm.

Stand firm in your conviction that everything pertaining to the casinos is wrong. Take a stand and share this conviction. We must be the examples not only for our friends and neighbors but more importantly for our children. They are our future.

In thinking of our future, we must temper our convictions with compassion. We must remember to minister to those who have been hurt or are hurting from the ills of gambling. The effects are widespread, reaching into our families, businesses, government — even our churches.

The victims of epidemics in the past have depended on those not affected to care and minister to them.

Unfortunately, the epidemic of gambling is not going away anytime soon. Therefore, Christians must be prepared to minister to the victims in Jesus' love.

Brown is a real estate consultant and was an anti-gambling leader in the two failed referenda to legalize gambling in DeSoto County.

Hawkins selected as new Annuity Board president

DALLAS (BP) — O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Dallas, has been elected president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Election came today during a brief, called meeting of the board of trustees at the Hyatt DFW Hotel at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. He will begin his work with the Annuity Board Oct. 1, 1997.

Hawkins, who has been pastor of First Church, Dallas since August 1993, is 50 years old. He was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and received degrees from two Texas schools.

"This was the most difficult decision in my life," Hawkins told a news conference after the board meeting. "I sensed a call of God to this expanded ministry."

The prominent Dallas pastor was offered the nomination by an eight-member presidential search committee named in November 1996. Chaired by J. Ray Taylor, a retired Fort Worth, Texas, insurance executive, the committee brought a list of 12 "qualities, traits

and/or characteristics" for approval by the full board of trustees in February 1997 before beginning a nationwide search.

Taylor told the trustees the committee was unanimous in its recommendation and "he met all 12 of our desirable traits."

Timothy E. Head, chairman of the trustees, when asked at a news conference what Hawkins' salary would be, said it was in the mid-point of a salary range, but would not disclose the range. Head said the salary was "a trustee matter."

Paul W. Powell, current Annuity Board president, said, "I commend the presidential search committee, their chosen nominee, and the full board of trustees. Dr. O. S. Hawkins brings to the office a solid track record of leadership and pastoral ministry. I am excited for

him, and I am excited for the Annuity Board."

Before accepting the pastorate of First Church, Dallas, Hawkins served congregations in Florida and Oklahoma. He came to Dallas from First Church, Fort Lauderdale, where he was pastor from 1978-1993.

Hawkins has degrees from Texas Christian University, Southwestern Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary.

The Annuity Board, with assets exceeding \$6 billion, manages active retirement accounts for more than 80,000 Southern Baptist ministers and other employees of churches, agencies and institutions. The board has more than 400 employees in its offices located at 2401 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas. Some 27,000 annuitants in pay status receive benefits that total more than \$200 million a year.

Hawkins is married to the former Susan K. Cavness of Austin, Texas. They are the parents of two daughters, Wendy Hawkins Hermes and Holly Hawkins. Hawkins is the only child of Otis

Hawkins of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and the late Lucille Hawkins.

Hawkins is a former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and was named Clergyman of the Year by Religious Heritage of America in 1993. He published numerous books.

Paul Powell became president in March 1990. In February 1996, citing the approach of several officer retirements in close proximity, Powell asked the trustees to begin the process of finding successors for the two top offices. W. Gordon Hobgood, Jr., chief operating officer who turned 65 in August 1997, and Powell, who will be 65 in December 1998, both expressed a desire to retire near their 65th birthdays. The Annuity Board has no mandatory retirement age.



Hawkins



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Preparations finalized for '97 MBC week

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

Programs during 1997 Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) week on Oct. 27-29 will feature a number of presidents including that of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC), the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), two SBC seminaries, Mississippi College (MC), and WorldCom, Inc. — one of the largest telecommunications companies in the world.

The major events, all taking place at First Church, Jackson, include the MBC on Oct. 28-29; Lay Missions Conference on Oct. 28; Conference of Baptist Ministers' Wives on Oct. 28; and the Pastors' Conference on Oct. 28.

In addition, a number of special interest groups such as alumni associations will hold their annual meetings. The Baptist Record will provide a list of times and places for those meetings in a later issue.

The MBC annual meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 28 and concludes at 11:35 a.m. on Oct. 29. This is the second year the convention will take place in only four sessions.

Principal speakers for the MBC annual meeting will be Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary; Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, and MBC president; Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, delivering the convention sermon; and Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

In business sessions the MBC will consider a \$25 million 1998 Cooperative Program budget and elect a president to replace Porter, who has served the traditional maximum of two one-year terms.

The Lay Missions Conference begins at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 27 with a series of conferences designed to involve lay persons in missions and ministries. The conferences will focus on Agricultural Missions; Campers on Mission; Church Renewal; Construction; Education Missions;

Partnership Missions; and Mission Service Corps.

At 3 p.m. on Oct. 27 the general session of the Lay Missions Conference featuring Mike Rogers, president of Kingdom Agenda Ministries of Murphreesboro, Tenn., will begin. The topic for the session will be "The Kingdom Agenda: Experiencing God in Your Workplace," which is the title of a book written by Rogers and Claude King.

The banquet portion of the program will include speakers Bernard Ebbers, member of First Church, Brookhaven and president of WorldCom; and Howell W. Todd, MC president.

Follow Christ's Servant Example



Mississippi Baptist Convention 1997 Annual Meeting

Tickets for the banquet are \$8 per person and available from the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department, c/o Missions Banquet, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Make checks payable to MBCB.

The 1997 Conference of Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives will take place

from 1-4:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, featuring two ministers' wives as speakers: Dolores Taylor of Gainesville, Fla., a leader for marriage enrichment and parenting conferences; and Jane Allison, of Hattiesburg, a conference leader for both Woman's Missionary Union and ministers' wives events. Taylor's topic will be "Expectations: Great and Small." Allison will speak on "Just Who Do You Think You Are?"

The Pastors' Conference will take place Oct. 27 from 1 p.m. to 9:05 p.m., with three Mississippi preachers and three Southern Baptist leaders. Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, is president of the conference.

Mississippi speakers include Harvey Reeves of Aberdeen, staff evangelist for Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth; Terry Ledbetter, pastor of Union Church, Picayune; and Steve Bennett, pastor of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven.

Other speakers will be Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville; and Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., and SBC president.

MBC deadlines posted

The Baptist Record annually provides readers with a list of official activities and related gatherings for the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC). The 1997 annual meeting and related gatherings are scheduled for Oct. 27-29 at First Church, Jackson, and other venues around the metro area.

The deadline for submitting these activities for announcement in The Baptist Record is at the close of business on Thursday, Oct. 2. Please include:

- ◆ formal name and type of activity.
- ◆ date, time, and location of activity.
- ◆ program speakers.
- ◆ costs of attending and any meals provided (where applicable).
- ◆ contact person and telephone number for more information.

Mail the information to arrive by Oct. 2 to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Information may be faxed to (601) 353-6184, or e-mailed to Compuserve address 70420.37. To avoid mistakes, information will not be accepted over the telephone.

Pastor's ministry dream brings frustration

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

As Keith Fulton ponders the fifth anniversary of legalized gambling in Mississippi, he is frustrated over a call he sensed from God but could not fulfill.

Fulton is pastor of Mount Carmel Church in Leake Association just across the line from Neshoba County, home of the Choctaw Indian reservation and Silver Star Casino. Fulton lived in Neshoba County all his life, except for now and eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

"Two years ago, when we found out the casino was coming, (Neshoba Association director of missions) Leo Barker and others began talking about a ministry," Fulton said.

At the time Fulton was pastor of North Calvary Church, Philadelphia. The hope was to find someone with the background and experience to begin a gambling ministry. Soon, Fulton felt the Lord was directing him to start such a ministry.

He resigned North Calvary and founded Barnabas Ministries. "I tried this for a year, but there wasn't the climate to begin a work yet," Fulton said. A year later the door opened for him to pastor Mount Carmel Church.

"This was a real frustrating experience," Fulton said. "We are not addressing problems here. Pastors were generally supportive, but congregations were not. Many pastors see the problems but don't know how to confront them."

Fulton's one-year experiment brought to light several obstacles. Christians are divided as to how to face the casino, he observed.

Gulf Coast gambling ministry set to begin sixth year of operation

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

For the past five years, gamblers have flocked to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and brought their problems with them. For the past five years, there has been a helping hand available when they hit rock bottom.

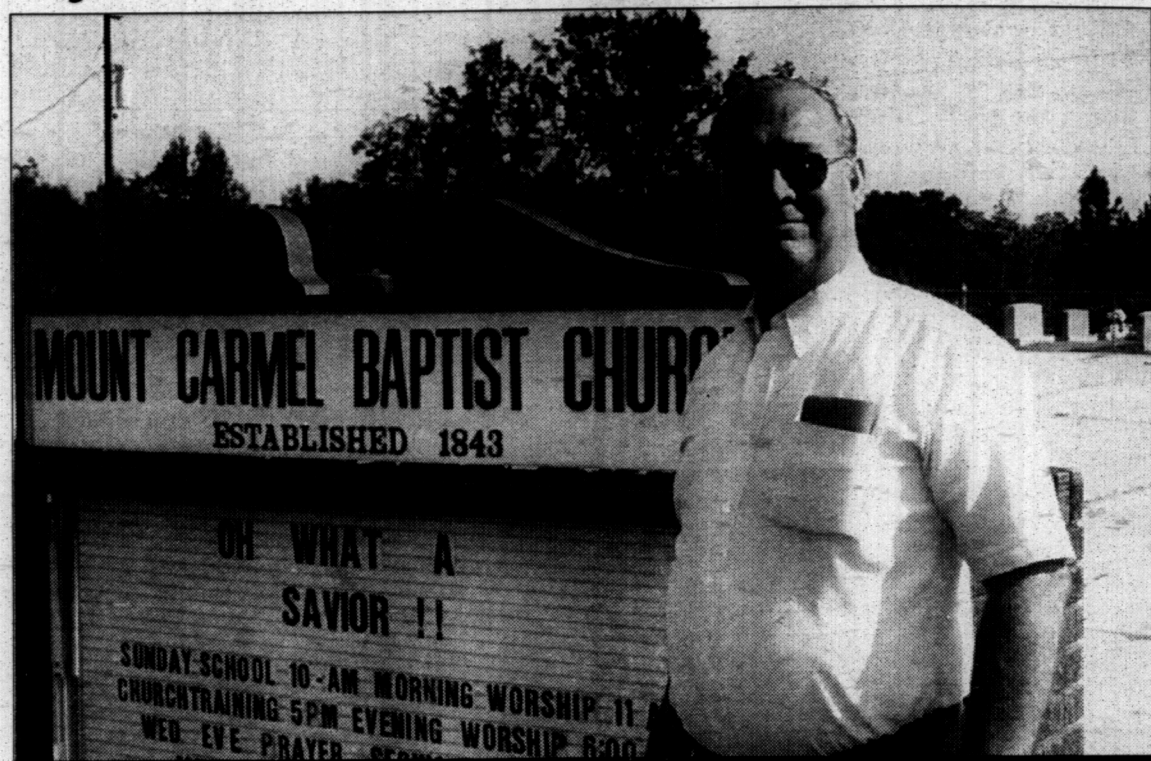
"We're staying busy," said John Landrum, a Gulf Coast pastor who resigned his church shortly after the first casino opened and began the full-time Chaplain to the Mississippi Beach ministry with his wife Linda.

"The (local) economy is booming. You can't get around that, but the human needs that go along with legalized gambling are also rising.

"There are a lot of marital problems, among both casino patrons and casino employees. We know the stress that gambling can place on a patron's marriage, but we don't often consider the stress on a casino employee's marriage.

"Their personal problems are heightened because of the pressure under which they work. You wouldn't believe all the government and casino regulations they must follow to the letter, and every move they make is videotaped by the casino security system," Landrum said.

Landrum pointed out that it's not at all unusual for the ministry to be working



Keith Fulton

"There are those who see it (the casino) as absolutely wrong and want to punish the employee or anyone who goes out there," he said.

Others see it as just harmless entertainment. Then there are many others who can't decide if this is a moral issue or an entertainment issue, he pointed out.

All of these attitudes toward the casino are formed against the backdrop of a general prejudice against the Choctaw Indian tribe, and to many life-long Neshoba Countians that is the single biggest obstacle, Fulton contended.

Silver Star Casino, unlike casinos on the coast and along the Mississippi River, is owned and operated by the Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Indian Tribe. "The

state has no jurisdiction over Silver Star," Fulton pointed out.

Fulton wanted to start a two-pronged ministry. First was a chaplaincy-type ministry to the employees of the casino.

"Many of the employees have family problems," he said. Because of the large amounts of money involved, the stress on the employees can be tremendous.

"The turnover rate is high. I don't want to stereotype anyone, but by and large there is a high alcohol problem and a high divorce rate," he said.

Second, Fulton wanted to start a recovery-type ministry to problem gamblers and their families. "Problem gamblers don't realize they have a problem until they need help," he said.

"There is nothing to help the family of a gambler," he added. "Most of the calls I got were from spouses or children of a gambler."

"A little girl called once and said, 'My father is gambling away everything we've got.' A wife called and said, 'I'm leaving him. We've lost everything.'

"A woman I talked to said she would leave the greeting card factory on the reservation on Fridays and instead of turning left and depositing her check in the bank, she would turn right and go straight to the casino. They have ATM machines or will cash your check for you right on the premises.

"Another lady told me she got in the mail a pre-approved Visa with a \$1,500 credit limit. She went straight to the casino. After an hour and a half, she walked away with nothing but a \$1,500 credit card debt."

"These stories could be repeated thousands of times. All you ever hear about are the winners. Nobody ever hears about the heartbreak," he said.

"This is a moral issue, not an economic or entertainment issue. While we want to confront the sin, we need to act redemptively toward the sinner.

"Just because a person works in a casino doesn't mean they have committed an unpardonable sin. We don't want to condone it, but rather confront the person with Jesus Christ.

"There is too much cultural Christianity in the churches of Mississippi. Every time the moral aspect of an issue and the economic aspect come head-to-head, the economic side wins. We lack understanding.

"What I am trying to do now is keep the issue alive. I have pulled back and I'm waiting for the opportunity to minister, for new doors to open," Fulton said.



Gambling in Mississippi:

Monetary miracle or moral mistake?

Ag Missions group hears pleas for ministry

Doors of opportunity were opened wide at this year's summer meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Agricultural Missions Foundation on Aug. 15 at Immanuel Church, Greenwood, according to foundation president Jim Watson.

Tom Williams, regional leader for the Western Pacific Region of the Southern Baptist International Missions Board (IMB) and Lee Nichols, Southern Baptist missionary in South Korea for 30 years, presented needs and development plans for both North and South Korea and asked for Ag Missions involvement.

Paul Harrell, Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Director, discussed the Mississippi/Venezuela partnership program and thanked the group for its support of the Ag-Missions portion of the partnerships.

A letter from IMB human needs consultant Bill Cashion

was discussed. Cashion asked that Ag-Missions be a source for recruitment of Christian professionals "in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, agribusiness, animal husbandry and veterinary services to serve as short-term volunteer instructors."

The immediate need is in a sensitive Asian Republic that was formally under communism, he wrote.

One of the more inspirational moments was when Ag-Missionary Horace "Dub" Fite and wife Sallie were presented a certificate of appreciation for 47 years of service as agricultural missionaries in Brazil.

The Fites will have served longer than any other missionary and may reach 50 continuous years of service when they retire. The agricultural school for boys that they organized and ran until this year has produced Christian lawyers, teachers, farmers, business men, police-



RECOGNIZED — Agricultural missionary Horace "Dub" Fite (right), and wife Sallie, receive a certificate of appreciation from the Agricultural Mission Foundation on August 15. The Fites have served in Brazil since September 1950. (BR special photo)

men, and pastors. They plan to retire in Brazil.

For more information, contact the Mississippi Baptist

Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd., 120 North Congress, Suite 815, Jackson, MS 39201. Telephone: (601) 355-2825.

BSSB receives first literature order via Internet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — South Side Church of Russellville, Ala., made history Sept. 9 by placing the first dated literature order on the Baptist Sunday School Board's World Wide Web site.

Robbie Richardson, church treasurer and Sunday School director for the church which averages "just under 100 persons in Sunday School," placed the order using an electronic form located at <http://www.bssb.com>.

Richardson obtained a per-

sonal identification number (PIN) to ensure security for his church's account and did not have to provide billing information on-line.

"I just stumbled across the board's web page one day," Richardson recalled, "and on Monday (Sept. 8) I learned that beginning the next day the web page would be available for on-line ordering. The board is a big operation, so this is a real added convenience to be able to get online and place your order."

He added, "if you have for-

gotten something, it's going to be really easy to just key in that additional order."

Within 24 hours of submitting the order, Reyes said, the church will get a confirmation of the order by electronic mail (e-mail), including a list of the items ordered. Orders placed on the web site are sent directly to the order-filling warehouse and are not keyed in by anyone other than the person placing the order for the church. Also, orders placed through the web

Dated Resources
Online Order Form
Church Growth Group

site before the due date found on the "Summary of Orders" page qualify for an early-order discount.

Churches may request a PIN on-line or by calling (800) 575-7004 or (615) 251-2064.

Pastor W.V. May, 86, dies

William Vernon May, Sr., 86, died Sept. 10 of a brain tumor at his home in Madison.

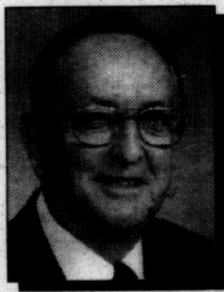
May, a native of Simpson County, attended Copiah-Lincoln Junior College and graduated from Mississippi State University. He taught school in Magee and served as Superintendent of Education in Simpson County. In 1938 he married Mae Lee Jenkins of Ridgeland. Mae Lee May served for five years as state WMU president and preceded him in death in 1976.

In 1944 he entered New Orleans Seminary, receiving his degree in 1947. During his seminary years he pastored two half-time churches in the Jefferson Davis Association—Hawthorn and Antioch. In February, 1947 he was called to

his first full-time pastorate at First Church, Mt. Olive. He also pastored in Hollandale (1949-1951), Tylertown (1951-1958), and retired from First Church, Louisville, in 1975.

His service to Baptists included 29 years on the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and nine years on the Board of Trustees of the New Orleans Seminary. In 1977 he married Elise Strange of Clinton. Until the time of his death he was active in First Church, Madison, and ministered at St. Catherine's Retirement Village.

Survivors include: wife, Elise; sons, William Vernon May Jr., Denton, Texas, and Simeon May, Richardson, Texas; sisters, Lavelle Mangum, Brandon, and Janie Sue May and Jean May, both of Pearl; brother Shorty May, Mendenhall; stepdaughters, Deedy Burkhead, Germantown, Tenn. and Carol Durham, Clinton; and five grandchildren and four step grandchildren.



May



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

Who made the rules that say I can't live my life exactly as I want?

Long ago, there was a special place where man was allowed dominion — a place where everything was at his disposal and only one rule existed. Man found even that one rule difficult to follow when the sin involved was so desirable (Gen. 3). We know that Adam and Eve blamed everything except themselves, but God held them accountable for the rule they so willingly chose to violate. The point is that they had a choice on whether to obey. We may have more rules today, but we still must make the same choice

whether to obey. The deaths of Princess Diana and two others in that automobile accident are fraught with tragedy because rules were broken. The driver chose to break the speed limit. The driver chose to break the rule against drinking and driving. Three of the passengers chose not to wear seat belts. Because important rules were unnecessarily broken, several families are now in mourning for their loved ones. Rules often protect us from self-destruction. God authored the rules of life, but it is obvious that human nature cries out for such rules. When we ignore God's rules the results can be devastating, both for ourselves and our loved ones.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

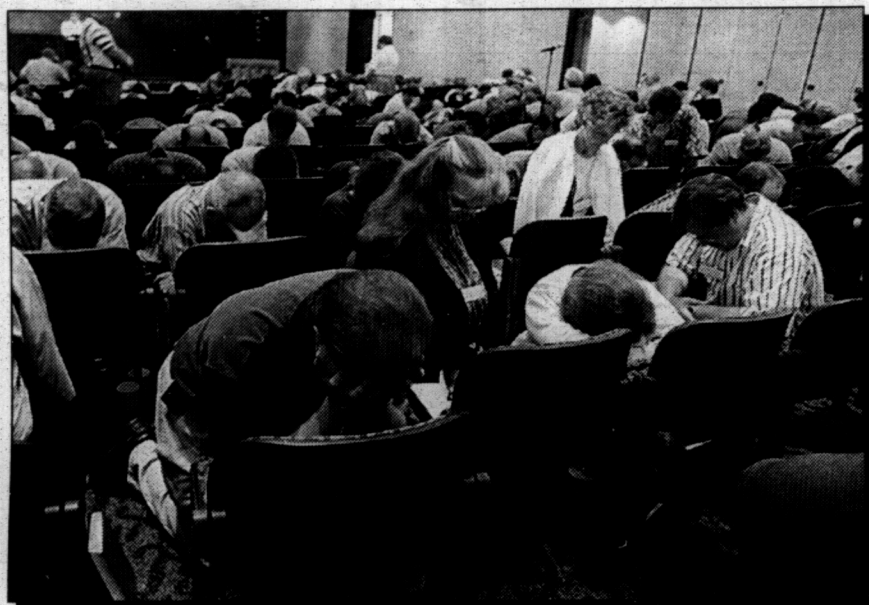
Corrections

On page 7 of the Sept. 11, 1997 issue the headline for a partnership missions request incorrectly located the Pagosa Heights Church of Colorado as being in Venezuela.

Also, in the photo on page 4 the Mormon Temple was incorrectly identified as the Tabernacle.

NAMB staffers bathe new effort in prayer

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — "God has worked this NAMB employee over. He said to me that having an experience with him is not enough for what he has planned," Henry Blackaby confessed following three days



PRAYER PRIORITY — NAMB employees in Alpharetta, Ga., and Ft. Worth, Texas, spent three days in prayer and fasting. September 9-11, employees placed their telephones on voice mail, held no meetings and conducted no business; instead, they met in corporate worship and prayer with frequent breaks for personal devotion, Bible study and reflection. (BP special photo)

of prayer and fasting at the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"I believe we are on the edge of one of the greatest workings of God," Blackaby told colleagues at Southern Baptists' new domestic mission agency Sept. 11.

"Whenever he is about to do a mighty work, God calls his people to prepare themselves and stand before him. That is what we have done this week, and I must tell you, he has done a number on my heart."

Blackaby, NAMB's special assistant for prayer and spiritual

awakening, was one of 350 agency employees who spent Sept. 9-11 away from telephones, meetings and the normal business of denominational service.

The retreat avoided standard messages related to leadership and team-building, focusing instead on repentance, prayer and worship.

In a keynote message, Robert Reccord compared the prophet Isaiah with Israel's King Uzziah and rhetorically asked staff, "Are you a person God uses or a person who uses God?"

"A person whom God uses is focused on God," Reccord explained, "... and strives to know him. Is the work of the board around you killing the work of the Lord within you?"

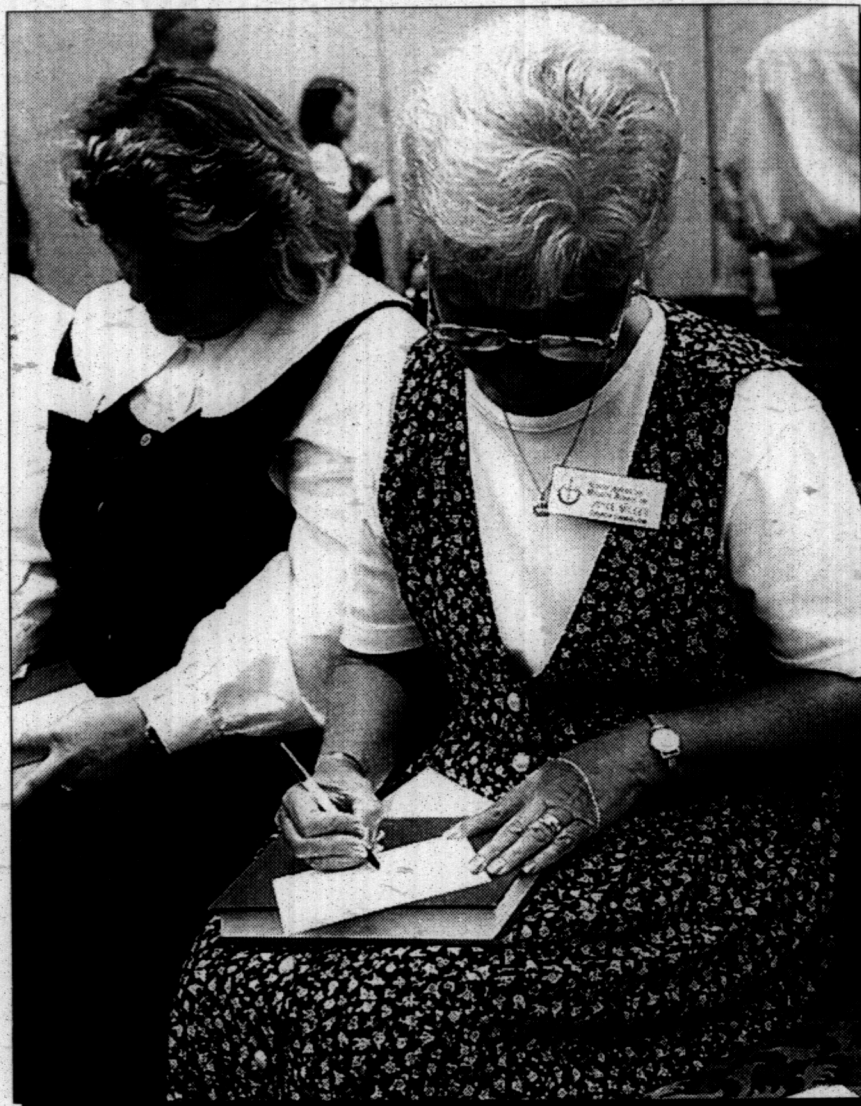
"Are you more concerned about the pull of work than God's presence in your life?" Reccord asked.

"We must be tuned in to God's voice. We must have something fresh to say to God's churches."

"Nothing scares me more than knowing that with the immense talent he has assembled here, we might leave God out. ... But he says, 'I am not asking you to do anything — just spend time with me and I will do it through you,'" Reccord said.

NAMB employees were so moved by Blackaby's passion for Canada they took up an offering to be sent to one of the 120 Southern Baptist churches there.

Summarizing the three-day retreat, Reccord told staff, "Part of the future of the North



REMEMBERED IN PRAYER — During a three day prayer and fasting retreat Sept. 9-11, NAMB employees personally prayed for every NAMB missionary, long-term volunteer, trustee, and SBC-endorsed chaplains. More than 8,000 personal notes of encouragement were mailed. (BP special photo)

American Mission Board is that we will spend a significant amount of time on our knees as we have done this week."

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.

There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.

God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

New Orleans Seminary observes 80th year

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary's (NOBTS) President Chuck Kelley formally began the institution's 80th academic year Sept. 4 with a convocation service during the morning chapel hour.

Held every year on the first Thursday in September, the convocation featured first the traditional signing by new professors and administrators of the seminary's Articles of Religious Belief and the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Baptist Faith and Message statement, then a prayer of dedication with the entire faculty joining the president at the front of the chapel.

This year's keynote address was delivered by Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Addressing Kelley's theme for the year, "Growing Healthy Churches," Hemphill described what a healthy church looks like, giving five characteristics he noticed first during his nearly 25 years as a minister in several churches, some of which experienced tremendous growth during his tenure, then as director of

the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth from 1992 until 1994, when he became president of the largest of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

"Our mission at this seminary," Kelley said, "is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries."

Believing the health of a seminary is determined by the health of the churches it graduates lead,

Kelley has fixed healthy churches as the target for all NOBTS efforts, with specific focus this academic year on "growing healthy churches." In his address, Hemphill said a healthy church has "an absolute awareness of supernatural empowerment."

Just as unconfessed sin in a person's life and doing the work of the ministry through the power of the flesh leave obvious signs, Hemphill said, "there always will be evidence when God's hand is on some-

one," such as when some type of intangible wall of separation is broken down or when no explanation is apparent "for something big happening."

Unfortunately, many churches "have lost that sense that God is sufficient to do what he wants to do," Hemphill said.

"The heart of our problem is we'd rather have a practical

solution, some secular marketing strategy, than a supernatural intervention,"

he said, referring to statistics revealing 69.4% of all SBC churches and 85% of all churches in the United States are plateaued or declining.

"We must remember how it worked with the Antioch church (described in the New Testament Book of Acts): It was the Lord who added to their numbers daily."

Second, a healthy church is "marked by prayer and praise," Hemphill said.

Ultimately, he said, "our

dependence on God is prioritized by prayer and praise."

Third, a healthy church "models Christian community."

"Fellowship is never a factor of numerical size," Hemphill said, refuting claims by some ministers and church members that large churches cannot provide a sense of community.

"Fellowship is diluted only by sin," he said, "not size."

Fourth, a healthy church has visionary leadership that is passionate church

Fifth, a healthy church is "committed to the Great Commission."

"If we don't recapture a heart for the Great Commission," he said, "much of what we do will be dissipated."

The convocation service began with the seminary's five new faculty members and two new administrators signing their names to both the seminary's Articles of Religious Belief and the SBC Baptist Faith and Message statement.

The seminary's 10 articles were written primarily by the school's first president, Byron Hoover DeMent, in 1918.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 18, 1997

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

IN CONCERT

Bruce Zeiger, conductor

Come enjoy an evening of uplifting music performed by some of the finest musicians in the state. Encourage everyone in your church to attend because there is no cost for this wonderful concert.

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson
October 5, 1997

Family Festival
June 27, 1998
Parkway BC, Clinton

9-11:30 a.m.

Senior Adult Rally with
Gov. Jimmy Davis, Louisiana

2-4 p.m.

Family events with
pony rides, booths,
John Bewley (magic),
GENTS (barbershop quartet),
clowns, nursery provided,
fellowship, much more

4-5 p.m.

Family Conferences

7-9 p.m.

Singles Rally with Matt Blagg,
Oklahoma



For more information, contact the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800.

26th Annual CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

October 17-18, 1997

First Baptist Church, Clinton, Miss.

MINISTRY



Dinner speaker will be **Ernest Herndon**, author of the "Eric Sterling: Secret Agent" series for children published by Zondervan Publishing House. He is a native of Memphis, Tenn., who has worked as a reporter for the McComb, Miss. *Enterprise-Journal* newspaper since 1979, free-lancing on the side. He is currently the religion editor for the *Enterprise-Journal*.

Two other special guests will be **Mancil Ezell**, director of Christian Schools and Media Services Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and **George Williams**, representative from Broadman-Holman Publishing Company.

COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM:

ACCESSORIZING YOUR MEDIA LIBRARY
BASIC ADMINISTRATION OF A CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY
BUILDING A HEALTHY COLLECTION!
CHOOSING AND USING SUBJECT HEADINGS
CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY MINISTRY
COLLECTING AND PRESERVING CHURCH HISTORICAL MATERIALS
CREATING CALL NUMBERS
CREATING PROMOTION THAT COMMUNICATES
MLS LAB
INTRODUCTION TO MSL: WHAT? WHY? HOW?
ORGANIZING AND OPERATING A CML (ADVANCED)
PREPARING AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA FOR CIRCULATION
PREPARING PRINT MEDIA FOR CIRCULATION
PROMOTION: DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL THEME
PROMOTION PLANNING THAT WORKS
WHAT LIBRARIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TODAY'S YOUTH
WHAT TODAY'S YOUTH NEED
WINNING WITNESSING WITH MEDIA
YOUTH AND SALVATION

CONFERENCE LEADERS:

BETH ANDREWS, PRESIDENT
State CML Convention, Forth Worth, Tex.

PAT BROWN, CONSULTANT
Church Media Program, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.

SANDRA FITTS, SPECIAL WORKER
Church Media Program, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.

BARBARA FREESE, LEAD CONSULTANT
Church Media Program, Nashville, Tenn.

STEVE GATELEY, TECHNICAL CONSULTANT
Church Media Program, BSSB, Nashville, Tenn.

MARK LOTT, YOUTH CONSULTANT
Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, Miss.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 7, 1997

For further information and a registration form, contact the Broadcast Services Department at 968-3000 or 800/748-1651.

Come, Go With Me, Martha

Women's Celebration Retreat

October 10-11, 1997
Camp Lake Stevens
Oxford, Miss.



Enjoy an overnight retreat from Friday night till Saturday morning to draw away from everyday tasks and to rest in the Lord. You will have a great time of fun, friendship, and spiritual renewal with other Christian women from Mississippi.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

Bible Study leader: Paula Smith, missionary to Uruguay

Musician: Melissa Bryant, Huntsville, Ala.

Theme Interpretation: Shelia Stanford, Clinton, Miss.

COST:

\$25 (includes lodging, 3 meals)
\$19 (meals only)
\$7 (no meals or lodging)

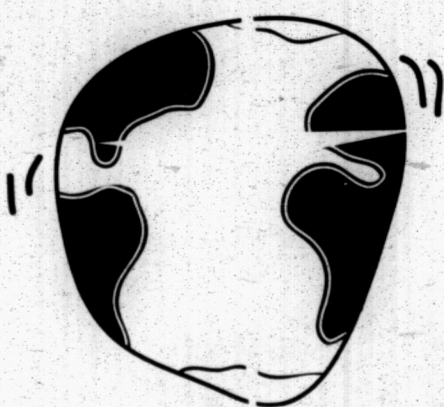
AFTER OCTOBER 3, 1997:

\$35 (lodging, 3 meals)
\$28 (meals only)
\$12 (no meals or lodging)

All fees received after October 3 are non-refundable but are transferable.

For further information and a registration form, contact the Woman's Missionary Union at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE • CLINTON DECEMBER 29-30, 1997



Ike Reighard



Reggie & Ladye Love Smith



Dennis Lee &
The Nana
Puddin' Bunch

IN CONCERT • Monday • 7:45 p.m.

Ask your youth minister for more details or contact the Evangelism Department, MBCB at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800.



Attention Lads,
Crusaders, &
Challengers

*Come, hang out with
the guys at . . .*

R.A. Day

When: Saturday, October 18, 2-8 p.m.

Where: Mississippi College

Who: All boys grades 1-12
and their leaders

Missionary speaker

Music, Testimonies

Meet the football players and cheerleaders

Football game:
Mississippi College vs. Austin College

\$4 per person

(includes ball game and limited, supplemental insurance)

BRING YOUR OWN SACK LUNCH AND DRINK.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13

*Sponsored by the Brotherhood Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

Who Am I . . .



*Through My
Father's Eyes*

Women's Enrichment Ministries Awareness Conference

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson

October 24-25, 1997

*Enjoy an overnight retreat of spiritual refreshment as you learn
about ministering to women in your church and
equipping them for service. Learn about new ministries
God is doing, led by national and state leaders in
Women's Ministries.*

Cost: \$17

(includes lunch, program
materials, and insurance)

All fees received after
Oct. 3 are non-refundable
but are transferable.

For more information and a registration form, contact
Edna M. Ellison, WMU at 800/748-1651 or 601/968-3800.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1997

1:00-4:30 P.M.

- Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information, and Support for the Minister's Wife!
- There is no cost for this conference.
- Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis.

Program Personnel

Dolores Taylor

Jane Allison

For more information, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries
Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.



Pray this day for...

September 19-October 2, 1997

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

The Power of Prayer

Members of Providence Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, pray in shifts every Sunday morning from 8 a.m. till noon. Each Sunday they pray for specific aspects of Sunday School, morning worship and church activities. They also pray about the sermon, the music and the people who sit in the congregation. Volunteers commit to pray four times a year for one hour during one of the three morning worship services. The 8 a.m. service was pretty sparsely attended when this plan was first begun but the more we prayed the more chairs we had to move in.

James and Carla Torrence, Coordinators of Morning Tide

Anti Gambling Day - Pray that church members will not patronize gambling casinos at any time (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Pray that Japanese Christian men will be Christian examples for their friends and fellow workers.

Associational Discipleship Rally (Discipleship & Family Ministry Emphasis). Continue asking God to work in the lives of Gao De Zhan, the Communist Party Secretary in Tianjin, China, and the mayor, Zhang Li Chang. Pray that these two influential men will come to have faith in Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Grace Baptist Church, Guyana, as they follow-up on more than 100 children who attended Vacation Bible School. The church plans to go into the home of each child and share the gospel.

For the State Prayer Coordinators' Conference, 24th-25th, and for the Church Intercessory Prayer Conference, 25th-27th at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Ask the Lord to intervene in the situation of Bruno and Chantal. Bruno is a recent graduate of the pastors' training school in Burkina Faso. He is unable to father a child, and Chantal's family is threatening to take her away from him and give her to another man in marriage. Pray that Bruno and Chantal will be strong in their faith and commitment to their marriage.

For the African American Bible Teaching Workshop; Baptist Building, sponsored by the Bible Study Team. For the College Student Conference, 26th-27th at Morrison Heights BC, Clinton; sponsored by the Student Work Department.

Please pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of "Saul" in the Middle East. Saul is a Muslim who is married to an American Christian. He began to practice Islam in a strict sense during the Gulf Crisis and truly believes Islam is the only way to follow God. Pray for the Spirit to reveal Jesus to Saul.

The small, Delaware-sized, Muslim nation of Brunei, located on the tropical island of Borneo, has a population of 300,000. It is an absolute monarchy, with a constitution that guarantees freedom of religion. However, in recent years the government has increasingly restricted Christian worship and witness. Pray for the Lord to halt this trend.

For the Church Related Vocations Banquet; William Carey College; sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries. Pray for students who feel God's call to serve Him whether it be the ministry, missions or religious education.

Ask the Lord to begin to open doors and to call out personnel to be involved in effective evangelistic outreach during the Summer Olympics which will be in Sydney, Australia, in the year 2000.

October is Cooperative Program Month (Stewardship Emphasis). Join Baptist representatives Dave and Chantelle Acton in giving thanks to the Lord that the church building their congregation is trying to buy in Germany was re-estimated in value by the city and the price was lowered by approximately \$130,000. Pray that they will be able to finalize the financial plans in the near future.

Pray for the Promise Keepers' National Stand in the Gap Prayer Rally, Oct. 4th, on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Since most men in Mississippi will be unable to attend the national prayer rally, the Brotherhood Department suggests that Oct. 4th be designated as a day of prayer and that we conduct our own Stand in the Gap prayer rallies in our churches. Pray that these prayer rallies will result in the redemption of many lives.

Everything You Wanted to Know about Patterson Place...but were afraid to ask!

• Where is Patterson Place?

Patterson Place is still on the drawing board.

• Where will Patterson Place be when it comes off the drawing board?

Patterson Place will be located at Camp Garaywa, Clinton.

• What kind of place will Patterson Place be?

Patterson Place will be a self-contained lodge-type conference center to be used only by adults.

• Why will it be used only by adults?

Because Camp Garaywa already has in place facilities built for youth and children.

• Why is a center for adults needed at a youth and children's camp?

Because, since Garaywa's very first year, 1947, adults have been meeting there.

• So, why, fifty years later, did someone decide it should be built now?

For a long time the need has been felt; for a long time it has been a dream of WMU leaders to provide such an adult setting; it seemed to state WMU leadership that beginning the process would be a fine way to celebrate this 50th anniversary year of Camp Garaywa.

• Where in the world did the name Camp Garaywa come from?

It is a composite of the names of the WMU missions education organizations in 1947 - GA, RA, YWA.

• Where in the world did the name Patterson Place come from?

The Executive Board of Mississippi WMU chose it in honor of Marjean Patterson, present executive director-treasurer of Mississippi WMU. Marjean

completed 40 years with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in June 1997.

• How big will Patterson Place be?

Two stories tall, 30 spacious rooms, meeting space for 100 people, food service area, screened second-floor porch with rocking chairs, balconies, ample parking, handicapped accessible rooms, beautiful wooded surroundings.

• Who will be allowed to use it?

Baptist adult groups will have first claim. These may be WMU groups, men's groups, church staff groups for planning retreats, choir retreats, deacon-wives retreats, associational groups, Baptist Building groups, any Baptist group needing a place for a spiritually-oriented gathering. Groups outside the Baptist denomination will be able to use it in accordance with policy of Mississippi WMU, which operates within the policy of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

• What will Patterson Place cost?

Approximately one and a half million dollars, furnished.

• How will it be paid for?

Because so many folks in Mississippi Baptist life have been touched by experiences at Garaywa, support has always come from Mississippi Baptists to meet any need at Garaywa.

• Is there some plan in place through which Mississippi Baptists are giving to finance Patterson Place?

"Hand in Hand Garaywa Expands, honoring our heritage, lengthening our legacy," is a plan designed by folks in the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The phrase, "honoring our heritage, lengthening our legacy" explains the permanency of our plans for Garaywa

as a camp which has as its motto: The Mission of Camp Garaywa is Missions. The financial process was introduced in connection with WMU Special Day in May 1997. The WMU director in each church works within the financial structure of her church to involve folks in giving.

• How does it work?

Several ways. First, a person, group, or a church may decide to give a large one-time gift. Second, the gift may be pledged and paid in one, two, or three years. Third, gifts of any size may be made at any time. Fourth, much prayer is being offered for some large, large, large gifts to be made.

• Are there any materials available?

Yes, there is a lovely color "Hand in Hand Garaywa Expands, honoring our heritage, lengthening our legacy" brochure, and there is a video.

• Where do I get them?

From the state WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; or call the WMU office using the Baptist Building's toll free number, 1-800-748-1651.

• When will Patterson Place come off the drawing board and into the ground at Garaywa?

Hopefully, within the next few months. We need to receive \$1.1 million before breaking ground. So far, \$570,000 has come in; another \$100,000 is pledged. When we can project that another \$530,000 will have come in, we can plan the day to break ground. Plans are in place to borrow the final \$400,000, if the end \$1.5 million does not come in during the year-long building process.

• Where does Patterson Place fit into the scope of things?

It will enhance the purpose of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in fulfilling the Great Commission and our Mississippi goal of Helping to Missions in Mississippi and the World to Jesus.

HOUSE TOPS

KOREA RUMORS UNTRUE

Editor:

In the Sept. 4 edition of The Baptist Record, a letter to the editor expressed outrage that facilities in the office building of the Korean Baptist Mission, purchased with funds from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO), were being used by Jerry Falwell's ministry. This is not true, and it is unfortunate that The Baptist Record would publish such an obvious attempt by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) to undercut the credibility of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leadership, the International Mission Board (IMB), and the LMCO among Mississippi Baptists without the writer or the editor confirming such rumors.

The first three floors of the building in Seoul, Korea, have been used in the past by the Korean Baptist Convention and affiliated boards and ministries. Since these Baptist entities have now acquired their own offices, the Korea Mission of the IMB has leased these facilities at market value to the Seoul International Christian School which serves our missionary families and others in the expatriate community.

Neither the school nor the Korean Baptist Mission have any relationship with Jerry Falwell and his ministry. Southern Baptists should be grateful that the IMB and mission entities around the world practice good stewardship of

the resources provided through the LMCO.

Jerry Rankin, president
International Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention
Richmond, Va.

MAINTAIN COMPASSION

Editor:

I realize that prayer is the vehicle that carries us to the throne of God, but I also believe that it is compassion that propels that vehicle.

Compassion can heal human emotions if we only allow it.

It can change and transform the entire world. Compassion is heart work compelling one to reach out to help those in need.

Without compassion there is no remission of sin. Salvation itself is a compassionate event because repentance itself comes from a compassionate heart.

It is emptying oneself of pride and allowing his Spirit control. It is easy to love the lovely but it's sometime easy to neglect the unlovely.

A church cannot minister within without compassion. Compassion is the key word to draw others to one. Compassion is love expressed. It can comfort a troubled heart and heal a broken spirit.

Compassion is the "God" within us. Without compassion we are dead spiritually. A pastor cannot minister to his peo-

ple without showing compassion. Neither his people. Compassion will draw others to you like a magnet.

Matthew 25:35-36. "For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink. I was a stranger and ye took me in." Naked and Ye clothed me. I was sick and ye visited me. I was in prison and ye came unto me."

Lets keep "compassion" as the hallmark of our ministry.

When we dress for the day, may we ask, "Have I put on compassion?" Col. 3:12.

Remember the Good Samaritan? "He had compassion on him."

Tom Walden
Jackson

LINE IN THE SAND

Editor:

I read that the International Mission Board, formerly the Foreign Mission Board, asks potential missionaries:

1. Do you believe in the "inerrancy" of the Bible?

2. Do you support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF)?

I do not know if this is true. If it is there should be public disclosure of when this practice began and who decided to do it.

Further, if prospective missionaries are denied positions because they do not ascribe to

"inerrancy" theory or support the CBF, then I feel compelled to draw a line in the sand and distance myself publicly from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

This is not something I enjoy or do thoughtlessly because I have been Southern Baptist all my life.

Yet, I cannot in good conscience before God continue to align myself with a denomination that operates the way the SBC has recently.

I have wrestled with questions such as "inerrancy" and "women in ministry" and conclude that God-fearing, Christ centered people simply disagree on these issues as litmus tests.

I will continue to support the Mississippi Baptist Convention because I believe it is committed first and foremost to winning the world for Christ.

I pray that this priority does not change, but if it does then so will I. To borrow the words of Luther, "Here I stand. I can do no other."

Finally, as John R. W. Stott wrote long ago: "Christ is the key to the scriptures. It is he who sets his seal on them, and it is to him that they bear their witness. Let Christ convince us of the truth of the Bible; and let the Bible reveal to us the glory of Christ."

David C. Meadows
Waco, Texas

REVIVAL DATES

Parkway, Houston: Sept. 21-24; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Jack Gregory, evangelist; Michael Waldrop, music; Sandra Naron, pianist; Shirley Thomas, organist; Thomas Tutor, interim pastor.

East Louisville, Louisville: Sept. 21-26; Tracy Hipps, evangelist; Jerome Key, music; David Jay, pastor.

First, McLaurin (Lebanon): Sept. 21-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and

7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Greg Clemts, Belzoni, evangelist; Stephen Stringer, William Carey College, music; Carlis A. Braswell, pastor.

First Church, Yazoo City: Sept. 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clarence Cooper, Grenada, evangelist; Kerry Jenkins, Linden, Ala., music; R. David Raddin, pastor.

Foxworth, Foxworth: Sept. 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 7 p.m.; Kenny Peavey, Columbia, evangelist;

Paul W. Young, Richburg Church (Lamar), music; Ladell Blanton, pastor.

Richmond, Tupelo: Sept. 28-Oct. 1; 7 p.m. nightly; David Westmoreland, Blue Springs, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, Blue Springs, music; Sean K. Tutor Sr., pastor.

Willow Grove, Collins: Sept. 21-26; 7 p.m. nightly; evangelists are Bruce Jolly, Balton Douglas, Gene Erwin, Danny Berry, Tommy Anderson, and Jimmy Hood; Hubert Greer, music; Billy Purser, pastor.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Calvary Church, Gloster, licensed Tommy Carraway to the ministry. Carraway is available for revivals and supply preaching and may be contacted at (601) 225-4270 in Gloster. Pictured (from left) are Errol Faust, pastor; Carraway, and his mother Janice Carraway.

Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, is the writer for the September lessons for the Baptist Sunday School Board's Life and Work curriculum called Ventures.



Register

Rubin Bland of Hazlehurst

was licensed to the ministry at New Providence Church, Hazlehurst, in August. He has three sons in college that are also licensed. Bland is available for supply and interim. He may be contacted at (601) 277-3205.

J. Felda Jones Jr. was ordained as a deacon by First Church, Morton, on Aug. 24. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and University Medical Center School of Dentistry. Alvin Doyle is pastor.

HOMEcomings

Bigbee (Monroe): Sept. 21; services begin at 10 a.m. with R. J. Wilemon bringing the message at 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1 p.m. service with special singing; Tommy Whaley, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Sept. 28; 10:45 a.m.; covered dish at noon; 1 p.m. singing, Born Again, guest singers; Robert Parish, Hammond, La., guest speaker; Lita Moore, music director; William Wright, pastor.

Glading, Magnolia: Oct. 12; services, 10 a.m.; covered dish, noon; 1:15 p.m. singing; Charles Kirkfield, pastor, speaker; New Grace, Meadville and Gloster, music.

First, Winona: Oct. 5; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., Kermit McGregor, former pastor, guest speaker; noon meal; 1 p.m. program, Jerry Mixon, former pastor, guest speaker; John L. Walker, pastor.

New Providence (Leake): Sept. 21, registration, 9 a.m.; services, 10 a.m.; noon meal; and program in afternoon; Bob Gross, Dothan, Ala., guest speaker; Smith Sanders, pastor.

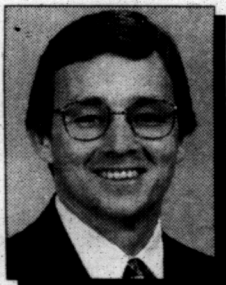
STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Waveland, has called **Taladge Rayborn** as pastor. Rayborn previously pastored several churches in the Gulf Coast area. He is a resident of Waveland.



Rayborn

First Church, Summit, has called **Jerry L. Smith** as pastor effective Aug. 18. Smith previously served at First Church, Rayne, La. A native of Canton, Smith received his education at Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary.



Smith

Pine Level Church, Leakesville, has called **Mitchell Osborne** as pastor effective July 20. The church had a fifth Sunday afternoon sing and pounding on Aug. 31. Osborne's address is Rt. 2, Box 214, Leakesville, MS 39451 and phone number (601) 394-2430.

Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, has called **Kevin Earnest** as associate pastor/youth. A native of Brandon, Earnest received his education at Jones County Junior College and William Carey College. He is presently attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of ministry was Line Creek Church, Pelahatchie.

New Home Church, Bay Springs, has called **Billy Ray Smith** as pastor effective Aug. 31. Smith received his education at Clarke College, William Carey College, Mississippi State University, and University of Southern

Mississippi. His previous place of service was Jupiter Church, Simpson.

James D. Whittington has retired again and is now available for interim, supply, revivals, and special projects. He can be reached at (601) 373-4975 or 2762 Brookwood Dr., Jackson, MS 39212.

Liberty Hill Church, Pope, has called **Ronnie Bennett** of Oxford, as youth minister effective Aug. 13.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



A group of gospel singers including W. C. Taylor Jr. and his wife Annelle, members of Hardy Church, Grenada, recently traveled to Prince Edward Island, Canada, to be involved with Community Baptist Church of Charlotte Town in concerts and the Gold Cup Parade. Singers (pictured from left) are Jim Wilkerson, Henderson, Tenn.; Taylor; Becky Collins, Dickson, Tenn.; and Jimmy R. Williams, San Antonio, Texas.

Flowood Church, Flowood, will sponsor its Fall Festival, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Activities will include old country store, face painting, games, and food.

North Mississippi Single Adult Retreat, sponsored by North Delta Association and Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, will be held on Oct. 17-19 at John Kyle State Park, Sardis. Scheduled on program are Wayne Pinkerton, minister of singles, First Church, Greenville, conference speaker; and Mary Jenkins, family ministries coordinator, Oakhurst Church, music and activities

leader. Cost of \$45 includes meals, lodging, activities, and snacks. For more information, call Becky after 4 p.m. at (601) 627-2818.

G. L. Ford Day will be held on Sept. 28 at Bissell Church, Tupelo. Activities include a special morning worship service honoring Ford followed by dinner on the grounds. Jim Varnon is pastor.

Webster Association has its first new church in almost 42 years at Bellefontaine. Faith Church held its Constitution Service, Aug. 17, at the Dorroh Lake Baptist Assembly Chapel where the members are now meeting. Twenty-three believers signed the church clerk's page for chronological list of new members requesting to be the first of the charter members



Euclatubba Church, Saltillo, held ground breaking ceremonies for the construction of a new sanctuary on homecoming day, Aug. 24. Pictured (from left) are Wayne Dixon, Prentiss Turner, Jerry Jones, Don Knight, Scott Witcher, John Hearn, pastor, Glenn Williams, George Parker, Ron Homan, Danny Bailey, and Eugene Spearman.

of the new congregation. James Bryant, director of missions, Webster Association, and James Justice, retired pastor, participated in the service.

The Sam Stalling's RA Chapter of Crenshaw Church, Panola Association, recently designed and built RA trophy racks. Over the summer, the RAs and GAs also had a can drive which earned \$121 and qualified them for nine Opportunity Now patches. Paul Lambach is pastor.

Beulah Church, Newton County, will have an Experiencing God Weekend, Sept. 19-21. Supper will be served in fellowship hall at 5:45 p.m. and a group session following at 6:30 p.m. Activities will be held Saturday and Sunday morning at regular Sunday School and worship service times. For more information, call Byron Howell, pastor, at (601) 635-2515 or 635-2505.

First Church, Okolona, will host a workshop for First Place on Nov. 8, 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. First Place, a 13-week sessions in a support group setting, is a total health program helping achieve balance spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and

physically. The cost is \$20 per person. To register by Oct. 24 or for more information, call Gail Jagers at (601) 447-2860.

Crusade for Christ will be held at Handsboro Church, Gulfport, on Sept. 21-24. Larry Taylor, San Antonio, Texas, will be preaching. Gerald and Cindy Simmons will be leading in praise music. The times are 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, and 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed. Gregg Thomas is pastor. For more information, call (601) 896-3796.

Beginning Again...Life After Divorce and Death, a recovery workshop, will be hosted by First Church, Jackson, for seven consecutive Thursday evenings, Oct. 2-Nov. 13. Additionally, for children who have experienced the divorce of parents, there will be KidShare, a support group for children in grades 3-6, and Healing the Wounds, a support group for teenagers. The registration fee is \$20 which includes materials. Advance registration and additional information is available by calling the Single Adult Ministry at (601) 949-1906.

Sallis Church, Sallis, will celebrate dedication of its new church (the old church building was completely destroyed by fire on Nov. 4, 1995) and homecoming day, Sept. 21. Activities will include worship service at 10:30 a.m., covered dish lunch at noon; 1:30 p.m. worship service with music, message, history, recognition, testimonies, and memorials. Thomas Wicker is pastor.

Baptist College News

Mississippi College Department of Music will host a guest performance featuring William Fulton and Janet Baker-Carr on Sept. 18 at 8:15 p.m. Fulton and Baker-Carr will present "The Letters of Johannes Brahms and Clara Schumann." Fulton, a native Mississippian, is director of Public Radio in Mississippi (PRM). Baker-Carr, music director of PRM, is from England.

Revival results

Blythe Creek (Choctaw): Aug. 24-27; seven professions of faith; 18 rededications; Ben Yarber, Mathiston, evangelist; Deanna Pearson, Chester, music; Danny Irvin, pastor.

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The 10 Commandments of Sunday School Growth

(This is part 6 of this series of growth laws.)

Law #9 — Make the Tough Decisions. The one question I am asked more than any other is, "How do I deal with an ineffective teacher?" There is a part of me that wants to say that you can't expect too much, because after all they are volunteers. Another part of me says that it is dangerous to make people angry. This approach would have the potential of causing problems in the church.

These two feelings are responsible for the lack of growth in our churches and the problems that Pastors face. It is true that our Sunday School workers are volunteers. However, not being paid to do a job should not mean a person does their job incorrectly. I have found that lowering our standards and expectations sends a message to our workers that their job really isn't important. Why should they give their best to a task that isn't important anyway?

The issue of not wanting to hurt someone's feelings or cause problems in the church can be overcome if you do two things. First, when you recruit a new teacher tell them up front what is expected. Answer all their questions and give them the best possible training on how to do their job. Never just hand them a book and put them in a class. How can we expect them to do their job correctly if we don't teach them how? Second, keep your word! Never say things you don't intend to enforce and don't let them get their bluff in on you. We use a teacher's contract in our church and ask each teacher to sign it. This way if we have to replace a teacher, they will know exactly why. If done in love, it will not be the crisis you are afraid it will be.

Love your church enough to make the tough decisions. Love your Lord enough to be loving and yet firm. You must be willing to make tough decisions.



Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor
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FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

What matters most?

Haggai

By Wayne VanHorn

The prophet Haggai's entire ministry lasted a matter of months in the year 520 B.C., Cyrus the Great had released God's people and had commissioned them to rebuild the Temple in 538 B.C. The foundation was laid in 536 B.C., but no further work was done. The central purpose of Haggai's message was to challenge the people's priorities. The people could demonstrate that God was first in their lives by rebuilding the Temple that had been destroyed sixty-six years earlier in 586 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian king.

The Right Time

(1:2-4). The best time to do God's will is right now. The people lost sight of the fact that God had returned them to their home land and had sought to restore their status as his people. An important aspect of being God's people was the presence of God in their midst, symbolized most notably by the erection of the Temple. When Haggai began to preach, the people had been back in the land for eighteen years. Having laid the foundation of the Temple, they turned their attention to personal matters like building and beautifying their own homes. The contrast between the people's paneled houses and God's house lying in ruins (Haggai 1:4) substantiates the fact that the people's priorities were misaligned. No doubt many calls had been given for the people to rebuild, but the people shirked their responsibility saying, "The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt" (1:2). Their insolence prompted God to challenge their priorities through Haggai (1:3).



VanHorn

The Lord commanded the people to "consider your ways!" Literal Hebrew reads, "Set your hearts upon your ways." Their ways were ones of self gratification and materialism. Yet, they had nothing to show for all their efforts. They had "sown much, but harvested little." They ate but were never

satisfied. They drank but never had enough. They put on clothing, but were never warm. They earned wages but put them in bags with holes (1:6). They looked for much that came to little (1:9). These verses communicate the disappointing results of material pursuits. We never get ahead by putting things ahead of God!

The Right Action (1:7-8).

The need of the hour was to put God first in a tangible way. The Temple had to be rebuilt! God would be pleased and glorified with the Temple once the people rebuilt it (1:8). The command to consider their ways, first issued in 1:5, is given again in 1:7 with a further command to "go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the Temple" (1:8).

The Right Perspective (2:1-5). Haggai 1:12-15 reveals that the people got the message. They began the work. The new Temple did not share the ele-

gance or size of the Temple that Solomon had built. The older people who had seen the former Temple thought the new structure was nothing in comparison (2:3). The people's attitude had to be corrected so God sent Haggai once again with a timely word. The magnificence of the Temple was never the height of its walls or the size of its courts, but rather the size of the God for whom the Temple was built! The new Temple was smaller and less elaborate, but the God of the Temple had not changed. The civil leader, Zerubbabel, the religious leader, Joshua son of Jehozadak, and all the people of the land were commanded to take courage because the Lord promised to be with them (2:4). Additionally, the Spirit of the Lord abided in their midst (2:5). What matters most is the presence of God!

VanHorn is pastor, First Church, Columbia.

LIFE AND WORK

The one and only response

Philippians 3:2-11

By Geneva England

The Apostle Paul warned the Philippians to have no confidence in the flesh. Yet history records many great names that fell because of their overconfidence and pride in self-efforts or for worshipping manmade idols. The Pharaohs, Caesars, King Saul, Goliath, the ten Wicked Israelite kings all forgot that "the battle belongs to the Lord (1 Sam. 17:47). Rejecting all outward show of self-sufficiency and pride, Paul stressed inner faith in Christ Jesus and warned the Philippian Christians to be clothed in humility and shod with selflessness.

Not Human Effort (3:2-4a). By the time of Christ's birth,

Judaism had become so steeped in legalism that the Jewish leaders equated their laws with the Old Testament commandments. The least deviation from their laws was punishable.

A prime example was their accusations against Jesus because they didn't want his teachings to spread. However, Christ repeatedly broke their "laws," thus showing that man's soul counts much more than man's law. God saw these Judaizers as filled with religion but hopelessly lost because of their faith in themselves; Paul called them "dogs" (v.2).

Human efforts have profoundly influenced every generation. Man is no different



England

today: he adds works to faith for salvation, such as baptism, tithing, or good deeds. Each of these is pleasing to God, but only after salvation as a demonstration of love and devotion to him.

The only way to eternal life is to believe in Jesus Christ "through faith,... not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). Salvation is a free gift of God.

Not Religious Heritage (3:4b-6). Judged by worldly standards, Paul lost much to follow Christ, but he counted this loss as worthless "dung." By birth, he enjoyed four positions: a member of God's elect nation of Israel; a Benjaminite (one of the two faithful tribes); a Hebrew of Hebrews (of pure Jewish blood and retainer of the Hebrew language and culture); and circumcised on the eighth day. Also Paul received a superior education from the great

scholar, Gamaliel. Paul's credentials gave him every social, religious, and political advantage. Moreover, he was a Roman citizen from a city of great status, Tarsus. If a pedigree is required for entrance into heaven, Paul could lead the line!

The Judaizers were amazed to hear Paul reject his credentials, not boasting, but teaching their worthlessness in seeking God's kingdom. All his faultless, law-keeping had been fake righteousness—man's feeble effort to please God. Moreover, having Christian parents or even church membership does not make anyone right with God.

Faith in Christ (3:7-9). Paul radically changed after his Damascus road conversion. His righteous position in Christ (imputed to him not by his efforts but by God's grace as opposed to his Jewish rank acquired symbolically through circumcision and law keeping)

gave him boldness to preach Jesus Christ as the one and only Savior. A step of faith in Christ is the one and only correct response.

Becoming like Christ (3:10-11). Every believer, like Paul, should then strive to know Christ better. He desired a genuine "fellowship" with Christ, meaning "to participate with," even sharing in his sufferings.

Remembering his zeal against Christ, Paul especially appreciated his threefold salvation: (1) saved from the penalty of past sins (2) ongoing salvation from the clutches of sin, and (3) final salvation from eternal punishment unto eternal life with God.

Having entered into a relationship with Jesus by faith, believers should continue to believe they are kept, strengthened, and matured by God's power, not by their own effort or strength.

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Human sin and divine love

Genesis 3

By Jason Bird

Though written over many years by many writers in many circumstances, the central message of the Bible is consistent throughout: God seeks and saves those who have sinned against him. When man and woman were in the garden of Eden, they chose to disobey God's commands. That disobedience brought the curse of sin upon them. Yet, even in the garden there is evidence of God's grace and mercy.

Temptation (3:4-5). God clearly stated that if Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they would die (1:17). Yet the serpent presented a completely different message. He tempted Eve by questioning God's integrity. God said they would die; the serpent said they would not. The serpent planted seeds of doubt regarding the wisdom, truthfulness and love of God. He also challenged Eve to declare her own autonomy - to strive to be like God.

Satan's method of temptation has not changed through the years. Today he still tempts people to question the goodness of God and be their own authority in life. When people rebel against God's commands, they are in essence saying they do not trust God to have the



Bird

best interest of his children at heart.

Sin (3:6). Temptation comes to everyone. Even Jesus was tempted by Satan. Temptation is not sin; giving in to temptation and disobeying God is. When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit God had forbidden, they rejected God and his authority over their life. They exalted themselves as the sole authority in their life.

Individuals sin today when they declare themselves god. Most would never express their behavior in such terms, but that is exactly what we do when we choose to disobey God. All sin can be traced to a selfish pride which denies God has the authority to reign as Lord of life.

Hide and Seek (3:8-10). As soon as Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their relationship with their Creator changed. The phrases "they hid from the

Lord" and "I was afraid" marks the change in relationship. Sin now scarred this once perfect relationship. The intimacy they had known no longer existed. Yet, it is significant to note that God sought the man and the woman out. This is the first evidence of God's grace and mercy.

Blaming Others (3:11-13). God knew exactly what his creation had done, but he wanted Adam and Eve to acknowledge their sin. Instead of facing their disobedience, however, the two began to play the blame game. Adam blamed Eve for causing him to sin and Eve blamed the serpent.

Society has tried over the years to insulate itself from all blame. It is not uncommon to hear those who have rebelled to blame their parents, their lack of education, their neighborhood or a myriad of other sources. Yet, in God's eyes we are each responsible for our own decisions. All have sinned and come

short of the glory of God and we have no one to blame but ourselves. We have made a conscious choice to disobey God, just as Adam and Eve did. Fortunately, we have hope.

A Ray of Hope (3:21). Man and woman had to face the consequences of their rebellion. They were not allowed to stay in the paradise that God had created for them. But in spite of their sin, God did not completely turn his back on his children. Because the man and woman were no longer innocent and now aware of their nakedness, God provided a cover for them as they left the garden.

The good news is that God has made an eternal provision to cover the sin of all of his children. If we repent of our sin and accept God's gift of grace, we too can experience the joy of mercy that only God can provide.

Bird is pastor, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
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THE VILLAGE DOLLAR—ANNUAL SUMMARY

Again in 1997 The Village accounts to local churches and interested individuals through the medium of excerpts from our auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, as an alternative to the publication of a booklet form ANNUAL REPORT. In adopting this format, we conserve a substantial sum formally invested in the booklet form, and we follow the advices of professionals who counsel that such a publication is no longer viable. In addition to our customary additional reports to Mississippi Baptist Convention and to each Baptist Association, interested churches and individuals may acquire supplemental financial information by writing: Rev. Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director, The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 27, Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027.

COMMENTS RESPECTING STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

A summary of the operations for the year under review and a comparison with a summary of the operations for the preceding year are presented in the tabulation below.

	YEAR ENDED		Increase
	6/30/97	6/30/96	(Decrease)
REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Contributed income	\$3,499,032	\$4,971,746	(\$1,472,714)
Investment income (loss)	419,147	282,042	137,105
Gain on sale of assets	—	17,993	(17,993)
Capital additions	—	38,793	(38,793)
	<u>3,918,179</u>	<u>5,310,574</u>	<u>(1,392,395)</u>
EXPENSE			
Operating expenses	3,522,041	3,196,294	325,747
Depreciation	269,195	243,790	25,405
	<u>3,791,236</u>	<u>3,440,084</u>	<u>351,152</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	126,943	1,870,490	(1,743,547)
CHANGE IN NET UNREALIZED GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS	152,920	117,964	34,956
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 279,863</u>	<u>\$1,988,454</u>	<u>(\$1,708,591)</u>

The factors entering into the changes in contributed income were as follows:

	YEAR ENDED		Increase
	6/30/97	6/30/96	(Decrease)
Cooperative Program	\$502,451	\$ 478,265	\$ 24,186
Mother's Day	297,944	404,272	(106,328)
Thanksgiving	65,845	91,075	(25,230)
Christmas	222,233	226,542	(4,309)
Easter gifts	89,350	87,646	1,704
Memorial gifts	189,634	173,536	16,098
Back to school gifts	90,689	121,580	(30,891)
Parental support	231,133	234,782	(3,649)
General gifts	\$820,456	\$2,776,140	(\$1,955,684)
Devises and bequests	88,001	295,796	(207,795)

COMMENTS RESPECTING STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES—continued

	YEAR ENDED		Increase
	6/30/97	6/30/96	(Decrease)
First Century	118,753	80,712	38,041
Capital improvements	—	1,400	(1,400)
Centennial gifts	709,576	—	709,576
Restricted gifts	2,967	—	2,967
	<u>\$3,429,032*</u>	<u>\$4,971,746</u>	<u>(\$1,542,714)</u>

The increase in operating expenses was due primarily to the following:

	YEAR ENDED		Increase
	6/30/97	6/30/96	(Decrease)
Contingency	\$ 6,131	\$ 1,526	\$ 4,605
School expense	24,416	20,638	3,778
Insurance	352,815	330,241	22,574
Centennial	90,380	—	90,380
Administrative	59,554	48,567	10,987
Vehicle expense	69,986	51,692	18,294
Christmas expense	23,192	18,896	4,296
Utilities	206,752	204,155	2,597
Retirement	133,366	144,967	(11,601)
Food services	223,394	210,080	13,314
Buildings and grounds	60,655	85,142	(24,487)
Development expenses	86,853	106,697	(19,844)
Medical and dental	66,432	51,692	14,740
Salaries	1,828,730	1,648,690	180,040
Taxes	144,821	128,152	16,669
Other net increases	144,564	145,159	(595)
	<u>\$3,522,041</u>	<u>\$3,196,294</u>	<u>\$325,747</u>

THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT JUNE 30, 1997 AND 1996

	JUNE 30,	
	1997	1996
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 424,044	\$ 175,784
Accounts receivable	274,268	258,671
Investments	2,672,816	3,093,865
Other current assets	46,115	13,833
	<u>3,417,243</u>	<u>3,542,153</u>
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS	3,327,448	3,131,853
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Land	825,599	825,599
Buildings, furnishings and equipment, net	2,946,111	2,605,056
	<u>3,771,710</u>	<u>3,430,655</u>
	<u>\$10,516,401</u>	<u>\$10,104,661</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 172,567	\$46,982
Accrued expenses	25,616	23,006
Other current liabilities	3,863	181
	<u>202,046</u>	<u>70,169</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	6,986,907	6,902,639
Permanently restricted	3,327,448	3,131,853
	<u>10,314,355</u>	<u>10,034,492</u>
	<u>\$10,516,401</u>	<u>\$10,104,661</u>

*Does not include \$70,000 in volunteer labor for capital improvements.

Mt. Olive Churches celebrating ministries

By John Armistead, Religion Editor
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

This June in Prentiss County on the first day of summer, a stream of cars slowly wound through a soybean field to a two-story farm house. On the spacious, grassy grounds of the house for the next several hours, 130 individuals ate, sang, and prayed together.

They came from two churches, one white, the other black. Both churches are named Mt. Olive Baptist, both are in the Geeville community north of Baldwyn, and for most of the last 130 years they have worshipped within a stone's throw of each other.

In spite of their physical nearness, the congregations have gone their separate ways for generations. On a Saturday afternoon, they came together as a first step in changing that pattern.

The Rev. Wayne Myles, pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, the African-American congregation, admitted he had some apprehensions about the affair.

"Fred Smith and another member of the other Mt. Olive came to me and asked me if I thought it (the picnic) was something that might be possible," he said.

Myles shared the idea with some members of his congregation. "There were some hesitations but overall everybody said, 'We'll go and see.'"

Thomas Wallis is a fourth generation member of the white Mt. Olive and church historian. "It was organized in 1851," he said of the original church. "The first black members joined in 1852. They were slaves of the Burrell family."

Other blacks became members in the following years. "The blacks continued to worship with the whites until they organized their own church in 1867," he said. "The black church was built behind the white church. Our church faced east and their church faced north."

"I think it is memorable," he said, "that



'FOR YE ARE ONE IN CHRIST . . .' — Members of the white Mt. Olive Church and the black Mt. Olive Church gather together for a picnic. The two congregations, originally one church, had not been together for 130 years. (Photo by John Armistead, copyright 1997, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal)

the combined churches have almost 300 years of ministry."

Harry Old of Baldwyn, also a member of the white Mt. Olive, was pleased with the way everything went. "I thought the spirit of the Lord was definitely among us," he said.

Old recognizes that barriers do exist. "Those old hang-ups and prejudices and fears just seem to divide us. But we're all God's children and we need to make strides as God's children to come together and celebrate the things we have in common rather than dwell on things that divide us. I

think that's what happened at our picnic. Maybe some day in the future we can be one church again. We once were."

The Rev. Chester Harrison, pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, the white congregation, also approached the day with eagerness. "Fred (Smith) started talking about this a year ago and he's really been the instigator," he said.

Harrison was very pleased with the afternoon. "I think it was a tremendous success, and hopefully this is something we can do again. I would highly recommend it to other churches."

The Rev. J. C. Prather, director of missions for the Prentiss County Baptist Association, viewed the picnic as a positive force in building good relationships between black and white congregations.

Lorene Frair of Baldwyn also sensed the spirit of reconciliation as she and her fellow members of the black Mt. Olive gathered at the farm house. "I was looking forward to it because I think that everyone should get along if we're calling ourselves Christian," she said.

The picnic surpassed Frair's expectations. "To be truthful, I was surprised at the way they acted. They welcomed us like we were somebody. You don't get that kind of treatment everyday. Being black I've gotten a lot of racial slurs and treatment during my life."

Fred Smith, who made his home available for the picnic, has often reflected on the relationship between the two churches. Everyday when Smith leaves or enters his property he passes by the black church. "I started searching my mind for a step to open up an avenue for fellowship," he said.

He, too, would like to make this an annual event. "Eventually, I hope this sort of thing would break down a few walls," he continued. "At least that was my thinking."

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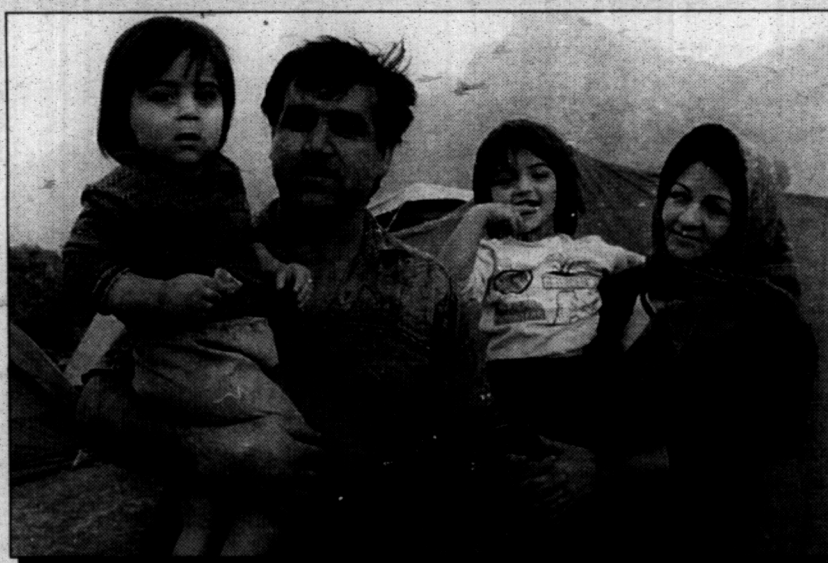
Churches aid Kurdish refugees

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP) — Kurdish refugees seeking a fresh start in the United States are finding an abundance of aid and support from many Southern Baptist churches who have made a commitment to be their sponsors. In the process, they are being introduced to Jesus Christ by testimony and example.

In South Carolina, for instance, seven churches are sponsoring 10 Kurdish families and several single men. Most of the churches are sponsoring one family each, helping the family adjust to their new culture.

The churches provided minimal housing for at least the first 30 days and have assisted with necessary medical care, transportation, and paperwork that accompanies applying for Medicaid, Social Security cards, and food stamps. With a goal of the Kurdish families becoming self-sufficient, church members also familiarized refugees with the area, helped them find employment, accompanied them to the bank and the grocery store and enrolled the children in school.

The North American Mission



Board (NAMB) helps coordinate refugee resettlement through one of several national agencies that have contracted with the federal government to oversee the resettlement.

In all cases, the Kurds first came to America with few possessions, other than the clothes on their backs. Originally from northern Iraq, they had to flee their homeland because of their involvement with American organizations which were working in Iraq.

Despite their Muslim back-

ground, a few of the refugee families have chosen to attend some of the worship services or programs held at their sponsoring churches. In all cases, refugees have been exposed to Christ and his gospel through relationships with their sponsors.

"I really believe that God has brought them here to hear the truth about Jesus," Suzanne Barton of Taylors First Church said of the family her church is sponsoring. "... You never know — they may be the ones to reach other Kurds with the gospel."

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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WOVHLOS, WOVEOLO

QHR OLOJI YMEJER. WNR

RJI RZO YMEJERY FZOR-

ZOI RZOI GJO HB DHS:

WOXGNYO UGQI BGVYO

MJHMZORY GJO DHQO

HNR EQRH RZO FHJVS.

BEJYR PHZQ BHNJ: HQO

Clue: N equals U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Eight One.